(c) the action taken against those errant officials responsible for Railway losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No case of flouting norms for tender allotment during 1997 to 2003 resulting into loss of Rs. 200 crore has come to notice.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Headless Railway Zones

1997. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about seven railway zones are headless for a long time;

(b) if so, the names of those zones and the reasons for remaining headless;

(c) whether Government have taken steps to fill the vacancies without any further delay; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) Presently 02 posts of General Managers of Zonal Railways, namely GM/East Central Railway and GM/Northem Railway are vacant. These vacancies have arisen consequent on promotion of the earlier incumbents as Members of Railway Board on 28.02.05 (AN). Steps to fill up these posts by regular incumbents have already been initiated. Meanwhile, arrangements have been made to look after the work of these posts by GM/North Eastern Railway and Member (Engineering), Railway Board respectively.

Replacement of old rail tracks

†1998. SHRI MOTILAL VORA Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to immediately replace the old rail tracks;

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether the old tracks have been identified; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Repair and maintenance of railway track in all sections, is a continuous process. Maintenance works are carried out regularly depending upon the need for ensuring safety of traffic. Track is inspected regularly and corrective action taken promptly wherever required. Speed restrictions are also imposed for ensuring safety, if the situation so warrants. Track renewals are also undertaken on age-cum-condition basis and subject to availability of funds and are approved by Parliament as a part of Railway Budget.

(c) The year-wise track renewals sanctioned for last two years are as under.

Year	CTR (Complete Track Renewal) Unit, Km.
2003-04	2890
2004-05	2740

Security of women passengers

†1999. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the measures Government are taking for the security of women passengers in the context of report (October, 2004) related to public hearing of women train passengers by the National Commission for Women;

(b) the percentage of trains which have arrangements of separate railway coaches for women passengers;

(c) whether Government are considering to appoint women ticket checkers; and

(d) by when Railways is going to appoint women constables in Railway Protection Force?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.